

Tik Tok Inspired Dance Party: Will Mathematicians Make The Next Viral Dance Trend?

By Mahima Lamba and Joy Fast

Level:

Pre-Kindergarten/Kindergarten

Concepts: Patterning, Number Sense

Materials:

Collect to show everyday objects featuring patterns

Select upbeat music with a strong beat and minimal lyrics - make sure children have access to adequate space to move

We love:



Dandelion
by Galantis JVKE

or



Good to Go
by A Tribe Called Red

Introduction: "I see patterns everywhere!"

Show children patterns on everyday objects to focus their thinking. We used socks, seasonal decorations, picture books and other household items that show patterns.

Essential Questions:

Ask the children:

What is a pattern?

Where do we find patterns?

Hook: Show a Tik Tok dance!

We made our own! Children will delight in thinking their teacher or family member is famous!

"Anyone can be famous with the right moves!"

"I wonder, can the children show us some cool moves?"

Turn on the music to dance around and watch the children's movements. Use some of their moves in your examples to generate dances.

Make sure to observe and name some cool moves. Examples include: stomp, turn around, wait, corvette corvette, the woah.

Use a combination of dance moves shown by the children to make a dance of 3-4 moves in length to provide an example to the children of how to make a dance with patterns. Also show a non-example and show children how to repeat the moves to make a pattern.

Let's Make a Dance!

Example:



Let's open the door to the right, open the door to the left, wait, corvette-corvette - what do you think?

It looks cool, but it's not a pattern yet!



To make this dance a pattern, repeat the moves again and again!

Take a moment to experience the pattern of moves set to the music and dance all together!

Time to Create!

Ask children to make a combination of at least 3 dance moves that repeat to create their own pattern dance. Then ask for volunteers to share their dance with the group!

Translating Patterns

As the children perform their dances, highlight the patterns in the moves using colourful cards.



"I can see the pattern and show it using colours!"

We showed that although we were using movements, we can create the same pattern using colours to represent the dance moves. We used this example to extend thinking about patterns so we could build meaning together.

Sharing Ideas and Making Meaning:

Children, with the help of their families or teachers, can share other ways to make patterns. Some suggested that patterns could be made with letters, colours, different shapes and materials from their homes.

Closing the Activity

We briefly summarized our learnings together.

"We can create a pattern with movements – we can feel patterns! We can also hear patterns and see patterns!"

With our extra time, we shared slides of photographs showcasing patterns in nature such as the scales on a lizard or the stripes on a snail's shell.

Questions for Further Thinking:

What are other materials we can use to make patterns?

What are other ways to make a pattern?

Why do you think we need to repeat the steps in our dance?

How did the pattern make it easy to learn our dance?

